THE Vantari NEWSLETTER

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TOS 1.4-THE CONTINUING SAGA

ST*ZMAGAZINE ISSUE #26
JUNE 23, 1989
EDITORS DESK
- by Ron Kovacs
ZNET NEWSTEAM

There is unfinished business in the air this week after a flap that brought the userbase of the telecommunication services to a fresh hope and disappointment. Many of us were hopeful after reading that TOS 1.4 was being shipped... all of us were upset to have it evaporate. ST*ZMAG has been taken to task first for daring to report that the story was false, next for "reporting it only to embarrass" the original presenter, and finally, for a variety of side issues. The facts we presented were 100% accurate, the quotes we presented were as spoken, and the entire story was reviewed and ratified this week by Chris Roberts at Atari, who gave us the info to begin with. Through whatever system of mis-information, the story that TOS was shipping was simply WRONG. We felt you needed to know this. It gratifies us here at ST*ZMAG to know that apparently 95% of the users in touch with GENIE and COMPUSERVE were skeptical of the announcement, and once ST*ZMAG ran our story, it was all over but the explaining. Thank you for your confidence in our reporting. We share the disappointment of the NO TOS information, but after talking to many people close to the affair, it appears that honest mistakes all around led ST-REPORT magazine to release the original misinformation. Later handling of the correct information was, however, not pursued by ST-REPORT with the same zeal as the original announcement, leaving ST*ZMAG to finish the job. This week, the story may be different AGAIN. At a conference today at the World Of a Atari show, it was announced that EPROM versions of TOS 1.4 may be shipping at any moment! Now don't get too excited... we are still checking this story. We have the conference on videotape and will be reviewing it with Sig Hartmann tomorrow. More info will come as soon as we can verify it sufficiently. Finally, the latest issue of ST-REPORT had a number of things to say about the situation and us in particular... but now is NOT the time to discuss it. Instead, let's table the problems and accusations and move on... INTO THE WORLD OF ATARI.

Reprinted from
ST-ZMagazine #22

WRITE A MAGAZINE

No, I don't mean publish your own, I mean write TO a magazine. Have you ever stopped to think how few general interest computer magazines cover the Atari, ST or 8-bit?? Once upon a time, Creative computing, Compute!, Family Computing, and the like, all had at least something about Atari in each issue. Now the only ones that publish anything are Computer Shopper (every month), and Byte (occasionally). I can't find any other GENERAL computing magazine that says anything at all about the Atari products. Pretty sad commentary on the state of things n Ataridom

see WRITE on Page 5

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see I.C. on Page 5

VANTARI NEWSLETTER

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MEMBERSHIP
Annual Dues are $20.00 for individual members, $25.00 for family memberships, and $15.00 for a newsletter only subscription by mail each month. Memberships are renewable in the same month that you joined.

VANTARI MEETINGS
Vantari meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at the Hastings Community Centre, 3096 E. Hastings St., from 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Visitors are welcome to attend a meeting to decide on membership. Come in and meet us!

ADVERTISING RATES & POLICIES
Advertising must conform to our family publication standards. Ads. must be photo-ready copy in full page, half page, half column or standard business card size. You may mail your ads. to the Editor with a cheque to cover listed rates and your ad. will appear in the next issue. Deadlines for ads. are the first day of each month.

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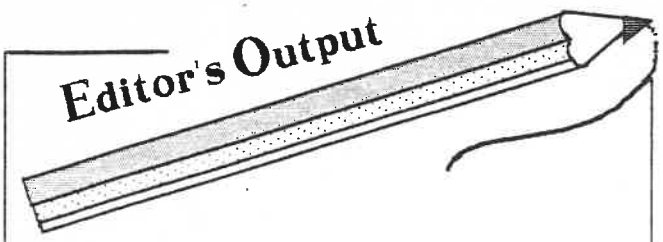

This month's Newsletter is a combined effort with the help of Wes Kurokawa. Thanks for helping out Wes, I for one really appreciate the help. Thanks also to those who contributed articles this month. The general routine for putting this Newsletter together goes somrthing like this. I collect the articles from our own contributors and other sources, then format them ready for importing to a DTP program on the ST. The disk of files then goes to Wes for this issue (who knows for next month) and he produced the pages as you see them. The layout and production work can be the most rewarding part of producing a Newsletter. We could use the help of a few more people with DTP experience and who already own one of the DTP programs. Perhaps we could start a special interest group of people who are DTP program owners or at least have an interest in learning what it is all about. If you are interested call me or talk to me at the meeting. If enough interest is shown let's do it!This is just a temporary return to the editorship for me this month, as we are looking for a replacement for Dave. As stated in last months column he is too busy with other things to carry on. He produced some of the best looking issues we have had to date and we are sorry to lose his experience. We must carry on however and I am sure that whoever fills this position will be able to produce issues equally as good or better in the coming months. If you are interested in taking over or in just helping out call me and we can discuss it. That's all for now folks.

Don Hatch, temporary editor.

President's Read Only Message

Presidents message.We are changing the general meeting agenda slightly this month. From this meeting on our format will be:7:00 pm Setup and display of demo's, tutorials, etc.8:00 pm Reports and business meeting, question and answer period and when we have one, a special guest speaker or demo.8:30 pm (approximately) Continuation of demos, tutorials, etc. and general discussions in groups. The Libraries will also be available at this time so that you can purchase the latest disks.News in generalI have to delay the posting of discounts available at local stores due to having the Newsletter to produce.There is now a new Compucentre store that has just opened at Eatons Centre, Metrotown. Jim McNeil is the manager but he reports that the store is a two family enterprise. His brother inlaw will be helping out when he is available. They have three other employees at present. Most of the ST stock was quickly sold when they opened, because prices were quite good. Consequently, they don't have too much left, but will be getting another shipment very soon. Drop by and have a look at the store and the layout of computers,etc. They didn't have anything to display on the ST's, so Bob Lussier and I gave them some demo programs that would be better to look at than the ST Language disk.Drop in to the downtown A&B Sound store and have a look at the Moniterm 19" monitor. Ron Grant in the Sound Solutions section showed me what it was capable of and I want one. The only thing holding me back was the price.

Well, that's all for now.

Don Hatch

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WRITE from Page 1

. I think it's time to stop taking for granted what we do have and do something to try to preserve what's left. Why not write to Computer Shopper and tell them how much you appreciate their continued coverage of the Atari computer. As it is, the 8-bit computer is covered under "classic computers". That's where they've put the coverage of computers that now have a limited audience (Atari 8-bit, Texas Instruments, CP/M and the like). And, with such a limited audience I'll bet they could drop them at any time. If you want to help make sure that the coverage continues, write and express your appreciation and encourage Computer shopper to continue their coverage. ST owners should also write. When you stop and think about it, if Computer Shopper were to drop coverage, there would be no coverage outside of Atari-specific magazines. Then how would the rest of the world hear about our favorite machine? ST owners have an advantage, since Atari has announced such exciting new products as the STACY, Portfolio, and TT. The "Power without the Price" keeps getting better. It wouldn't hurt to tell Computer Shopper, and others, that Atari is BACK!! Let them know how exciting the new products are and how great a value they are. A magazine like Personal Computing shouldn't have to hear about the power in the Portfolio for the price, or the ST/MAC/IBM clone you can have for less than $2500 before they pricked up their ears. Let some of these magazines know that the Atari market is going to grow by leaps and bounds and tell them they shouldn't wait and be left out in the cold. Here are the addresses for several general interest computer magazines that I encourage you to write to. Every one of them COULD cover the Atari if they thought the interest and market was there. Let them know that it IS there and will be getting bigger. Computer Shopper, 5211 S. Washington PO Box F Titusville, FL 32781: Byte, One Phoenix Mill Lane Petersborough, NH 03458 : Home Office Computing (formerly Family Computing), 730 Broadway New York, NY 10003 : Compute!, 324 West Wendover Ave Greensboro, NC 27408 : Personal Computing Ten Holland Drive Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604. Go ahead, sit down to your word processor and fire off an excited letter to these magazines. It just might help extend the life of your computer.

I.C. cont. from Page 1

can use the extra 64K of memory to set-up a RAMdisk (a FAST simulated disk drive) which is EXCELLENT for disk maintenance. Coming soon: A 128K upgrade for the 600XL (yes!). Installation is required by an experienced kit builder (requires some soldering). Price: $59.95 (+ S&H - see below) Happy Doubler Now, Happy 1050 Drive owners (and clones) can program their drive to be fully compatible with ICD's U.S. Doubler! This includes formatting disks in the U.S. Sector Skew--making reads and writes MUCH faster! Also, the software allows you to re-program the drive numbers to be D1: thru D8: without having to use the drive's dip-switches. This allows you to to have up to 8 drives online! rî Best of all, since the Happy Doubler is completely disk based--no installation is required! And, unlike hardware mods, you only have to buy the software ONCE, no matter how many Happy 1050s you have! Price: $19.95 (+ S&H - see below) U.S.: Be sure to include $3.50 Shipping and Handling with your order. COD is available (U.S. only) at $3.00 extra. APO/FPO: Include $3.50 with order. Canada/Mexico: Include $7.00 with order. ALL other countries: Include $10.00 with order. For more information on our MANY other fine products, you can download our catalog from our Data Library (15) on CompuServe. Just BROwse for the keyword "CATALOG".

The following is submitted by Douglas Skrecky, Thanks Doug for keeping us informed.

Sierra Online 8-bit Program Exchange Offer for Atari.

Are you an 8-bit Atari owner thinking of upgrading to an ST? If you are, Sierra On-Line may have a deal for you! Sierra is currently willing to exchange some returned 8-bit programs for ST programs! Programs that will be accepted for exchange include B.C. Quest for Tires, Crossfire, Dark Crystal, Dragons Keep, Frogger I & II, Jawbreaker I & II, Lunar Leeper, Marauder, Mission Asteroid, Oils Well, Softporn, Ultima I & II, Ulysses, Wiz Math, Wiz Type and Wizard & Princess. ST programs avaliable under this offer include: Kings Quest, Kings Quest II, Space Quest, Space Quest II, Police Quest, Leisure Suit Larry and Mixed Up Mother Goose. For further details contact:

Customer Service
Sierra On-Line
P.O. Box 485
Coarsegold, Ca
U.S.A.
93614

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JUNE 23, 1989
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PUBLIC DOMAIN SHELF
by Alice Amore

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RATEHD

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Brought to you direct from ICD, Inc., RATEHD gives the user information about the performance characteristics of hard disk drives. RATEHD does NOT go through the hard disk handler, but is used for evaluating drive mechanisms, embedded SCSI drives, and SCSI controllers on the Atari ST.

It tests data rate and average access time. Beginning at SCSI ID# 0, Logical Unit Number 0, RATEHD checks through 0-3 LUNs, SCSI IDs 0-7.

When a hard drive is found, it is tested. This is only a read test, so the program is perfectly safe to use. ICD asks that you pay special attention to the DOC file so that you understand what RATEHD is doing.

FILESPY

~~~~~~~

FILESPY loads an entire text file into memory. It then lets you page through the file, save portions of the file, search for strings, mark areas of the file to go back to later, print part of the file or the whole file, plus more. Printing is done in the background, so it's possible to examine a second file while the first is still printing.

The UNDO key will stop the printer at any time. You are also shown FILESPY runs in all resolutions. If you run it in low resolution, it automatically once the program is exited. It's small enough (less than storing text files. FILESPY was written by Michael Street as shareware.

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ST-ZMagazine #25

HARD DRIVES

This week I'd like to do something a bit different, and trust that some of you will benefit greatly from this information.

Many of you have decided to piece together your own "home-brew" hard drive system. Much of the time it takes to put the system together is not concerned with the actual construction, but rather in shopping for the best prices. Here are some great hard drive mechanism prices I located earlier this week. I am not able to verify the quality of service these companies provide, or if indeed the items are in stock. These prices are the lowest I have seen on each mechanism and hope you'll find one that suits your needs.

Seagate ST-157N
48 Meg 3 1/2"
Group One Electronics
818-993-4575
Price: $260

Seagate ST-277R
65 Meg 5 1/4"
Group One Electronics
818-993-4575
Price: $300

Seagate ST-225
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800-637-4832
Price: $135

Seagate ST-125
20 Meg 3 1/2"
Computer Parts Outlet
407-265-1265
Price: $139

Micropolis
170 Meg 5 1/4"
Int. Materials
617-254-1700
Price: $799

Miniscribe 3438
30 Meg 3 1/2"
C O M * P U T * R s
800-637-4832
Price: $150

Seagate ST-238
30 Meg 5 1/4"
BCS Inc.
201-670-0505
Price: $179

Micropolis 1578-15
382 Meg Full
Epoch Research
508-452-6000
Price: $1695

Fuji FK309-39R
30 Meg 3 1/2"
Computer Parts Inc.
407-265-1265
Price: $129

Lapine 3532
30 Meg 3 1/2"
Computer Parts Inc.
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Preview of ANALOG #74 - July1989
-GeorgeMcKinney
"CHARACTER SET DISPLAY UTILITY"

lets you view up to seven different ATARI fonts on screen at once. It is useful if you are looking for a particular font to use in a program of your own or in TYPESETTER. It is written in ACTION! and both stand-alone machine language and the ACTION! source code are on disk and in print. "CHAOS" is a small graphic program which shows how a pattern can appear from apparently random choices of points. "DISK MASTER" is my favorite from this issue. Written by Barry Kolbe and Bryan Schappel, it is a disk editor for single or enhanced (1050 drive) disks and a disassembler which works with either sectors or files. The editor seems fairly standard, while the thing that I like about the disassembler is that it uses a fairly complete list of ATARI equates to make the output more understandable. The list is included as a separate file on the ANALOG disk and would be very useful in Assembly programming. There will be a sample of the output at the meeting. "DEGAS View" presents DEGAS monochrome pictures on the 8-bit screen. I haven't seen it in use, but will try to be able to demo it. "AUTORUN.SYS Secrets in BASIC" is a BASIC program which you can use to generate a AUTORUN.SYS file to do just about anything from BASIC. "MAZERUNNER" is a one or two player maze chase game, with the humans playing against computer controlled monsters. There are variations in visibility, number of monsters, etc. While the graphics are very plain, the game is interesting. Finally, Tom Hudson's "BOOT CAMP" continues his introduction to the 6502 instruction set. The disk will be available at the July meeting.
See youthere

TECH TIPS
by
WK Whitton

==========

Atari has recently begun using some new IC's in its computers. These are in units being shipped, and also in the Mega repair kits being sent to dealers. Until now, the new chips were simply appearing with no hint whatsoever what their purpose or function was. Here is a list of these chips and their Atari part numbers:

Atari Part #
Function
Vendor

CO25913-020
DMA
Ricoh (Old)

CO70714-001
Glue
IMP

CO25915-38A
Glue
Ricoh

C100109-001
MMU
IMP

CO25912-038
MMU
Ricoh

CO25912-20
MMU
Ricoh (Old)

What has been a real joy for those of us who work on the ST's on a regular basis is that the new IMP DMA and MMU chips are causing many more problems than they are solving.

1. The new DMA IC will not work on the older Supra, and Atari hard drive systems. You must have a drive with an actual access time of 28 ms or less for this chip to work reliably. We have had several cases of a person buying a new 1040, and when he takes it home, his hard drive will not work with it. The fix is simple, use an older version of the DMA chip! If you experience problems along this line and are in need of a replacement DMA IC, specify a CO25913-038.

2. Numerous new and perplexing video problem have arisen also. Most seem to crop up shortly after a repair, or in relatively new St's. The cure? In many cases it simply involves installing an older style MMU, specifically the CO25912-038. The newer MMU from IMP has had some reliability problems up until now.

SPECTRE UPDATE

==========

Things have been relatively quiet on the Gadgets front the last month, but several new things are in the works.

1. The Spectre GCR has begun beta test, and minor bugs are currently being resolved.

2. A new newsletter is in the works and suggestions are currently being taken as to what folk would like to see appear there.

3. The update for the Spectre 128, version 2.0, is currently under way. This reportedly will include:

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Atari SF354 disk drives $149.88
(single sided drives with cables and manual)

Atari SMM804 printer $249.88
(dot matrix printer with manual)

Atari 65XE, 1050, & 1027 $249.88
(includes all cables and connectors, no manuals)

Atari 1029 printer $ 99.88
(dot matrix printer missing manual, cable & box)

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A. Drastically improved Sound Manager routines. Quite a few bugs got the boot in this revision.

B. Support for the Moniterm Viking full-page monitors.

C. Support for the Hyperscreen mod in the works by ST hardware hackers far and wide.

D. "Hassle-free" postscript output for laser printers under Spectre emulation.

E. A possibility of built-in support for non-Apple printers so the purchase of products like Grappler LS and Printworks will no longer be necessary.

F. Formatting of disks while under MacIntosh emulation will be supported, (at least by GCR if not also with "bare" Spectre).

G. Right mouse button, unused on the Mac, will be set-up to emulate a 'Shift-click".

H. Atari Laser 300 DPI printer support.

4. Doug Wheeler, a terrific programmer , is now an employee of Gadgets By Small, Inc.. Dave and Doug have said the "To Do" list for Doug is quite lengthy at this moment. Doug is heavily involved with Postscript and the Spectre.

5. Some extremely interesting files have made their way to the Macintosh Rt on Genie. One such gem is the source code for 32 bit Color Quickdraw. The impact of this upon the Spectre may well be felt in the very near future. With this code in Dave's hands, we will now know for sure whether a color version of this ever-popular emulator is a practical reality. Due to be released shortly is the source code for Apple's HFS filing system. This will enable Gadget's to fix the Spectre's SCSI routines, and finally allow the use of many programs that balked at the non-standard way SCSI has been handled. It may well then be possible to hook up a host of Mac-specific hardware devices such as CD-Roms, Scanners, and the like. Again, please note this is some time down the road, but now is a definite *possibility*.

6. Appletalk hardware support is currently under development by another prominent ST developer. Dave is working with them, and future revisions of the Spectre software will support it. This means you will be able to work with an Apple protocol laser printer, or, if running "Topps", be able to share hard drives with another Spectre/Mac user! Appletalk is an extremely inexpensive networking system, and it will be a pleasure to see it brought to the ST arena.

7. We have been notified that Dave Small has dug up a slew of old college posters that were kept on a magtape. They have been recovered, and Doug Wheeler has kindly converted them to a format usable by the ST. Just what we need - something *BIG* to cover the holes in the walls we are too busy to fix because we are "working" on the computer!

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"May 25, 1989 Corp. to their 8-bit hard disk drive interface and will be

be producing them under the name of K-P ard Disk Interface. I have opened a Base here for information relating to them. It is on base 20 and the file sig for it is 13. "I have the boards being made now--they should have been finished today but due to minor problems the company couldn't get them done until Monday... "There will be two places the interface will be available from: here and the Stormbringer BBS in Bangor, Washington. Other than these, the interface will not be available through any catalog or distributor. I haven't been able to contact Supra to confirm this message, but have included it here in the hopes that some ZMagazine readers can help out.

Roy Goldman, author of Daisy Dot series, says he continues to work on DIII. However, Roy asks for the loan of a Prowriter and Atari XMM801 printer. These are, apparently, slightly different from the Epson-compatible standard, and Roy needs their loan to make sure Daisy Dot III will consistantly work with these printers. The exceptional piece of shareware terminal programming called BobTerm has had another version released. BobTerm v1.10 fixes a problem or two, and incorporates several more features. One of these is BobTerm's ability, like DeTerm, to load external modules which BobTerm uses in its function. As of this writing, two modules are included: one for the EP-80, and one for a command line processor when using SpartaDOS 3.2. I am extatic about the latter. Those who know me know how I carry on about Amodem. With this latest BobTerm version, my Amodem may have been overwhelmed. Thanks, Mr. Puff, for all your efforts.

INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS ROBERTS

by Bob Brodie and John Nagy

Reprinted from
ST-ZMagazine #25
CHRIS ROBERTS:
NEW ATARI USER GROUP
COORDINATOR

Atari Corporation has at last filled the position of User Group oordinator by hiring Chris Roberts. Chris will also be handling all oordination of Atarifests and show appearances. The position was reviously held by Cindy Claveran, and Sandy Austin before her, but had ncluded developer support duties that made the job nearly impossible. Chris comes to Atari with first hand experience in user groups. He was president of the P.A.L.A.C.E. user group (Pasadena Area Local Atari Computer Enthusiasts) in southern California for two years. He was involved with the Glendale Southern California Atari Faire, and ran his wn BBS, The Dragon. He has extensive experience in 8-bit Ataris, and is proficient programmer favoring BASIC XE on the 8 and True Basic on the T. A number of Chris's original 8-bit games are still available on Enie and CompuServe. His articles on Spectre 128 have been published in T-Xpress, and he also worked for The Federated Group. Most recently, Chris was employed by Hughes Aircraft doing computer work. He currently has a program for the ST under submission to RTWARE, an ST developer. Chris is 32, a native Californian, and is arried with 3 children aged 2, 5, and 6. This is good news for Atari 8-bitters, for at last they truly have "one f their own" inside Atari, helping on the front line. User group fficers will appreciate knowing that Chris has already shared their ath. He knows the trials of running a group! Z*Net spoke with Chris for nearly two hours on his first day at Atari (June 12) and we were really impressed with his energy and enthusiasm for is new job. He has a lot of ideas to improve the support of user roups. He indicated that Atari is dedicated to improving their support of user groups, and wants to improve their communications with them. He repeated Sam Tramiel's request of last ear, that groups can best help Atari right now by approaching dealers nd trying to get them interested in ATARI. It will be easier and more ttractive to be an Atari dealer than ever before. We asked Chris if he felt insecure knowing the history of rapid turnover at Atari, and he laughed and said he was already too busy to worry about anything but work. He feels he has a lot to offer Atari and the user roups, and expects to be around a long time. One of the projects he hopes to see implemented is a multi-level state, regional, national, and even international network of user groups, independent of Atari but in close association with it. Chris expects that a group should be able to be as small as five people and still be recognized. The only other requirements he thinks should be relevant are monthly meetings and bylaws with a strong anti-piracy rîclause. Chris hopes to get a developer's kit and access to a private area on Enie telecommunications network for each registered club. The special IG there will offer a place to get the newest information direct from tari as well as keep groups in close communication. Other plans are to revive the User Group Newsletter on an every-other-month basis...without fail. That may be a tall order, as Chris will go to EVERY consumer event that tari is involved with! Look for him at

Atarifests and World Of Atari hows! In our conversation there was a real note of pride in Chris's voice when asked about his office equipment. "I've got a Mega ST, and the original prototype Atari Laser printer! What a piece of history! They had lanned to put in a font cartridge, apparently, 'cause there's a slot on he printer for it. No cartridge, but the printer still works great!!!" ho else but a diehard Atari user would get excited about that printer? This job is a dream come true for me", he said. "I've been after Sig Hartmann for some time for this position. Every ime there has been an opening, I've been on the phone asking for the osition. I finally got it!" Chris stressed that he had stacks of mail to go through that had accumulated since Cindy left, and that the existing database of user groups was almost unusable and very incomplete. He asked EVERY GROUP to PLEASE send him a card with their group name, official address, resident's name and phone number. Including a newsletter is optional. ven if your group registered last year, PLEASE send it in again...so any groups did not register last year, some due to the questions about a ealer sponsor, that Chris just would prefer to start over. Send to: Chris Roberts, User Group Coordinator, Atari Corporation, 1196 Borregas Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 Of course, you could always call him him at Atari. His phone number is (408)745-2052. This is a direct line to him. Soon you will also be able o reach him on GEnie. As the main interface of the User and Atari, Chris promises that he will always be honest with the public. "If I don't know the answer to a uestion, that's what I'll say, I won't make something up, and I will try o find the real answer," he stated. Items Chris passed on to us in our irst talk included: there is serious discussion again about offering he BLITTER upgrade for the 520 and 1040; the upswing of national advertising is REAL, with major campaigns coming in top magazines to help nspire dealer and buyer confidence; and the products to be announced by tari on August 25 will be EXCITING. Z*Net looks forward to a great relationship with Chris and Atari, and offer our Congratulations and Best Wishes, Chris!

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The 8 Bit Corner

COLOR PRINT GRAPHICS (8-BIT)

A Review by R. Lussier

(This is the last 8-bit column written by Bob, he has since moved on to he ST and is now writing reviews for that machine. Ed.)

A new company supplying programs for the Atari 8-bit is WJA Software. his recent program, available now, is Color Print Graphics and it will so soon be available for the IBM computer.

The program comes on three (3) disks. These are graphic library disks consisting of fifty (50) pairs of graphics that are made to be used in conjunction with the PRINT SHOP software. The images mesh together to form a two (2) color graphic for the Cards, Banners, Letterheads, etc. that you can produce with the PRINT SHOP software. The graphics that produce the second color are to be found on side B of the disks. The graphics on side A can be used for one 1) color graphics (mono).

The graphics are made to be used with the Red and Green printer ribbons but you can use other color combinations such as Black and Red or Blue and Red. A useful feature is that the graphics on side B are color labelled for best results.

The program does require two (2) print passes and *** requires a proper paper alignment ***. I have been playing around with this program and find it produces very good looking Cards, Letterheads, etc. and is a MUST program or those who like to make their own Christmas cards for friends, unique Business Letterheads, and great Posters and Banners.

As for ordering, the return time was about two (2) weeks which constitutes very good service. If interested in the product, then contact:-
WJA Software Co., 6 HuntersLane, Hendersonville, NC 28739, U.S.A.

I rated this program at 8.5 out of 10. This was for user friendliness, value for money and usefulness.

. The price of the three (3) disk set is U.S. $14.95 including postage.

NOTE: User groups - 5 sets or more at $9.95 per set shipped to one (1) address. If you order the program set, I hope you enjoy it as much as I do. It adds new life to the PRINT SHOP software.

For NEWSROOM users there is a new Clip-Art disk converted from PRINT SHOP which has 116 graphics. This is available from Vulcan Software, P.O.\ Box 692, Manassas, VA 22111-0692.
The price is U.S. $5.00 including postage. This is a bargain, buy it.

SOME 8-BIT NOTES
by R. Lussier

It has recently been brought to my attention about the plight of the 8-Bit users in the group on where to obtain good software and how to go about finding good sources. Well a good way to start is to obtain information through the dedicated 8-bit magazines, such as ANTIC, ANALOG and also the ATARI EXPLORER. Other very good and useful periodicals are from your Users groups. These include our own Vantari Newsletter and a couple other very good ones are:

PSAN NEWSLETTER (locally available at Strachan Computers and Wizard Computers. ed) from S.P.A.C.E., P.O. Box 10576, Tacoma, WA 98411-0576 and

CURRENT NOTES, c/o Joe Waters, 122 N. Johnson Rd., Sterling, VA 22170. The dedicated magazines are available through quite a few sources in this area. Some sources are A&B Sound all locations, Wizard Computers on Fraser St., Cody's Book Stores and Compucentre (Lougheed and new at Eaton Centre Metrotown) to name a few.

A very good magazine from England is called "THE NEW ATARI USER". The address if you are interested in more information is: PAGE 6, P.O. Box 4, Stafford, ST16 1DR, England. A very good group in England which has a high class newsletter and of which I am a member is: The U.K. Atari Computer Owners Club, P.O. Box 213, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2QF, England. both of the stated sources in England have very good Public Domain libraries. It would be very well worth your while to drop them a line for more information. I hope that this information is useful to some of you 8-Bit users out there. Following are more addresses which deal with 8-bit commercial and public domain software to keep your computer well fed and happy.

BELLCOM, P.O. Box 1043, Peterborough, Ont. K9J 7A5. This is a superb source and has a very good catalog on public domain software. This is one source very worthwhile writing to.

Another very good public domain supplier is VULCAN SOFTWARE, P.O. Box 692, Manassas, VA 22111-0692. And another source is MicrOtyme, 4049 Marshall Rd., Kettering, OH 45429 .S.A.,

also try

C&T ComputerActive, P.O. Box 893, Clinton, OK 73601 .S.A. This is another very good public domain source. Next is a company with commercial software called: Alpha Systems, 1012 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, OH 44056 U.S.A.

For those of you living in the greater Vancouver area there are two good local sources, our own Vantari User Group and another 8-Bit group called 8-G.A.U.G.E. (contact LEN at 596-2847 for more information). Others are A&B SOUND stores. The place in town for available commercial and some public domain programs is Wizard Computers on Fraser Street. Their phone number in case you want to contact them them for availability is 321-7144. If you know or require a certain program but can't find it they may be able to order it for you, ask them. If you require more information feel free to contact me at 522-7015 in the mornings between 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. I will try and help you out or put you in touch with somebody who can.

DON'T FORGET TO SUPPORT YOUR SUPPLIERS.

This is the only way we will be able to obtain NEW software. Pirating is a cheap way to go but it will dry up the software in the future. Your choice!! Also, support your local users' group or groups by purchasing some of their public domain software. This helps to keep YOUR group going and a lot of the public domain software is very good and at an affordable price.

Till next time...